



City of Yonkers NYRCR Public Engagement Meeting #2

Monday, September 8, 2014
7:00 PM, St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Welcome and Overview

Planning Team

- **State Representatives**

- Suzanne Barclay, GOSR Regional Lead
- Rick Soto-Lopez, GOSR Planner
- Kate Dineen, GOSR Regional Director
- Dan Berkovits, GOSR Policy Manager
- Alex Breinin, GOSR Policy Analyst

- **Planning Committee**

- Steven Brown, Stephen Force, Kathy Graves, Rick Magder (co-chair), Jagdish Mistry, Leon Nanton, Gail O'Rourke (co-chair), Tom Ryan, Barbara Smith, Kerry Smith, Paul Summerfield, Renee Toback, Bob Walters

- **Consultant Team**

- Project Management: Nanette Bourne and Jim Finegan (AKRF)
- Engineering: Jaclyn Hakes and Michael Pianka (MJE)
- Risk Assessment: Bill Cesanek and Maggie Hopkins (CDM Smith)
- Public Engagement: James Duffy (ACS)



NYRCR Program

The NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR), developed under Governor Cuomo's leadership, is a community-driven initiative that will empower localities severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, or Tropical Storm Lee to develop comprehensive and innovative recovery plans.



NYRCR Program

Culminates in a community-driven recovery plan for Yonkers that:

- Identifies vulnerable areas of the City
- Develops strategies to protect the City from future flooding
- Recommends resilient and innovative reconstruction projects



Funding

Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

- \$664 million to NYRCR Program
- \$3 million of NYRCR funds to Yonkers

Funds used for recovery efforts involving

- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure Systems
- Health and Social Services
- Natural and Cultural Resources



Overview of the Process

Goal: Identify innovative, transformative projects and actions that enhance resilience and economic development

- Determine Geographic Scope
- Establish Vision and Goals
- Describe Storm Damage and Risk Areas
- Identify Assets
- Assess Risk to Assets
- Assemble Needs and Opportunities
- Coordinate regionally
- Develop Resiliency Strategies, Projects and Actions
- Formulate projects with a focus on CDBG-DR funding
- Prepare cost estimates and finalize “Project” list
- Generate Draft and Final NYRCR Reconstruction Plan



Role of the Community

- Ensure plan meets community needs
- Shape and inform plan
- Inform and educate residents regarding the planning process and general resiliency information
- 10 Planning Committee Meetings (5 held to date)
- 4 Public Engagement Events (1 held to date)
 - July 24
 - September 8
 - November
 - January



Agenda

- Overview of NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR)
- Project Timeline
- Public Engagement
- Report on Progress to Date
 - Community Asset Inventory
 - Needs and Opportunities
- Next Steps
- Break-out Table Discussions and Report Back





Public Engagement

Staying Involved

- Opportunities for Public Participation
 - Committee Meetings
 - Public Meetings
 - Live participation
 - Feedback forms (after meeting/take-home)
 - NY Rising Yonkers Website
 - <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nysrcr/community/city-nyonkers>



Goals For Today

- Sharing the Planning Committee's progress to date
 - Community Asset Inventory
 - Needs and Opportunities
 - Strategies
- Getting your input





Community Asset Inventory

Asset Categories

Natural/Cultural
Resources



Infrastructure



Health/Social
Services



Economic
Development



Housing





Economic Development

- Downtown Centers and Large Businesses
- Employment Hubs
- Industrial, Warehousing and Manufacturing
- Small Businesses such as Banks, Marinas, Restaurants, Tourist Destinations





Health and Social Services

- Emergency Operations and Response
- Government and Administrative Services
- Public Works Facilities
- Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities
- Schools and Higher Education Institutions
- Daycare and Eldercare





Housing

- Single-Family Residence
- Multi-Family Residence
- Affordable Housing
- Senior Housing
- Supportive Housing





Infrastructure Systems

- Wastewater
- Water Supply
- Transportation
- Power Supply



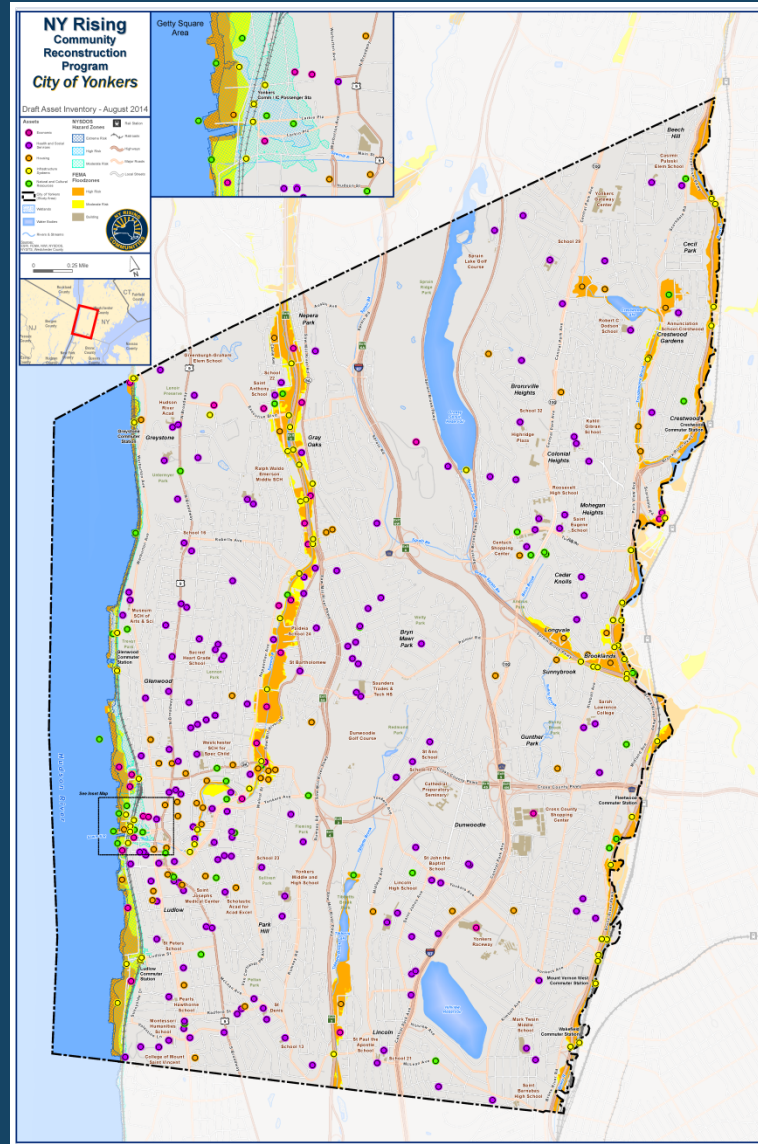


Natural and Cultural Resources

- Libraries
- Museums
- Parks and Recreation
- Community Centers
- Water Bodies



Community Asset Map





Needs and Opportunities

Recovery Support Functions

Community Planning
and Capacity Building



Infrastructure



Health/Social
Services



Natural/Cultural
Resources



Economic
Development



Housing





Community Planning and Capacity Building

Need: Expanded public education and outreach programs to increase awareness of natural hazards, resilience and recovery practices, and emergency preparedness

Opportunity: Use existing City resources to educate the public about natural hazards, recovery, and resiliency





Economic Development

Need: Generators for stores with perishable inventory, especially grocery stores

Opportunity: Find a way for City, County, and State governments to incentivize stores to install generators





Health and Social Services

Need: Storm shelters that double as community resource centers and resiliency education centers, equipped with generators and emergency supplies

Opportunity: Leverage City institutions (especially libraries, but also schools and community centers) as recovery support locations—with charging stations, access to internet, and other recovery resources





Housing

Need: Better protection of homes and neighborhoods from flooding

Opportunity: Improve enforcement of building and zoning laws relating to flood zones





Infrastructure Systems

Need: Preservation of electrical service during

Opportunity: Explore alternative power opportunities such as micro-grids for improved access to power, increased flexibility during/after storms





Natural and Cultural Resources

Need: Healthier streams and tributaries

Opportunity: Utilize industry best practices to restore and stabilize streams





Strategies

Potential Strategies

- Work with neighborhoods and businesses to improve flood resistance in Yonkers' vulnerable areas
- Improve on existing emergency preparedness and communications
- Provide information and assistance to home and business owners with pre-storm floodproofing and post-storm recovery
- Promote resilience and flood management best practices through land-use planning and regulation
- Repair, rehabilitate, upgrade and fortify critical infrastructure assets
- Harness resiliency potential of natural resources



Moving Towards Projects





Break-out Table Discussions

Break-out Tables

- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Economic Development
- Health and Social Services
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Natural and Cultural Resources





Stay Connected & Stay Informed at
www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/



Community Planning and Capacity Building

- Availability of temp housing
- Better coordination among agencies – with overlapping jurisdictions
- Better outreach for notification of disaster events
- Better availability/notification of sandbags – where to get them, how to get them to your home/business
- Backflow preventers (one way check valve)
- Emergency response team in city government





Economic Development

- Waste methane from wwtp should be used for electricity
- Need to add walgreen's (medicine) and mcdonald's (coffee) – for generators
- Backup generators – should be incentive money for homeowners/ businesses to buy these
- Backup electricity for elevators in high-rise buildings
- Public transportation – need alternatives when one system goes down
- Disaster kits – everyone should have one in their home, place of employment (red cross has a site that explains how to set these up)





Health and Social Services

- Need: sustained campaign of information about emergencies before they happen
- Mandate food stores/gas stations have gas/solar generators
- Subsidize natural gas generators over gasoline/ oil
- Work with Coned and City to survey neighborhoods for willingness to share generators among neighbors
- Citywide pumping agency for flood areas – rather than fire dept or other agency that already is busy during a disaster
- Create alliances with nearby municipalities – to share shelters, calling centers, etc





Housing

- Neighborhoods in flood zones even if they have never flooded
- Gas may not be best option for generators if ConEd is going to turn off the gas during a flood – rates should not be higher for generator users
- Insurance – elevation studies to establish who needs insurance
- Cleaning out catch basins
- Elevations for homes – what funds are available for this?





Infrastructure Systems

- Rivers are infrastructure – requests to dredge the waterways
- Increase capacity of the Saw Mill (culvert diverting water down to the Hudson)
- Require New commercial developments to install generators to save resources for their neighbors
- Grants / tax benefits for generators
- Removing stormwater from sanitary sewers to prevent backups / overflows – check valves
- Solar power grants, subsidies – more self-reliant
- Lists of reliable companies for solar
- ConEd should put more of their power lines underground





Natural and Cultural Resources

- Add assets as potential shelters, resources for period after a disaster—
 - Andros Home
 - Graham Colts Club
 - Untermeyer Park
 - Raceway
- Needs
 - smart development (no more building in a flood zone)
 - water runoff (chart it, monitor it, let the community know what's going on)
 - water safety education (what to do when you flood)
 - berm maintenance in Nepera Park
 - maintenance/pruning of trees
 - grants for green building
- Opportunities
 - Monitor storm basins and sewers
 - Community-based call-in line (call to report a downed tree, for example)
 - Solar, wind, other renewable energy
 - Use green spaces properly - trails

